processing a header-symbol-sequence signal with a header-chip-sequence signal and from spread-spectrum processing a data-symbol-sequence signal with a data-chip-sequence signal, for synchronization comprising the steps of:

generating a replica of the header-chip-sequence signal;

loading said programmable-matched filter with the replica of the header-chip-sequence signal, to set said programmable-matched filter with a programmable-impulse response matched to the header-chip-sequence signal;

despreading, with the programmable-matched filter matched to the header-chip-sequence signal, a header portion of the packet from the received-spread-spectrum signal as a despread-header-symbol-sequence signal;

correlating, with a replica of the header-symbol-sequence signal, the despread-header-symbol-sequence signal to generate a peak-correlation signal;

loading, responsive to timing from the peak-correlation signal, said programmable-matched filter with a replica of the data-chip-sequence signal to set said programmable-matched filter with the programmable-impulse response matched to the data-chip-sequence signal; and

despreading, responsive to timing from the peak-correlation signal, with the programmable-matched filter matched to the data-sequence signal, a data portion of the packet from the received-spread-spectrum signal as a despread-data-symbol-sequence signal.--

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